AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database, said patent information including multiple claims from a plurality of patent documents;

automatically determining claim breadth metrics for the multiple claims by using computer to measure claim length;

associating a claim breadth metric with a claim and storing said associated claim breadth metric in a computer-readable dataset,

wherein a claim breadth metric which is associated with a claim is indicative of how broad the claim is.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of automatically determining claim breadth metrics ~~analyzing the claim text~~ includes automatically counting the number of words in ~~said~~ the claim text for each of said multiple claims and generating ~~a claim breadth metric~~ claim breadth metrics for the multiple claims therefrom.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of automatically determining claim breadth metrics ~~analyzing the claim text~~ includes automatically identifying within ~~said~~ the claim text for each of said multiple claims a

preamble portion and a body portion, counting the number of words in said preamble and body portions and applying separate weights to said counts to generate ~~said~~ a claim breadth metric for each of said multiple claims.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step ~~of analyzing the claim text~~ automatically determining claim breadth metrics includes automatically parsing ~~said~~ the claim text for each of said multiple claims to identify parts of speech, using said identified parts of speech to identify clauses within each of said multiple claims ~~claim~~, comparing said clauses with the text of other claims in said corpus to generate scores indicative of which clauses within said claim text have a lower probability of being found in other claims within said corpus.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying said patent information in a sorted order based on said claim breadth metric.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of ~~analyzing the claim text~~ automatically determining claim breadth metrics includes linguistically processing ~~said~~ the claim text for each of said multiple claims to identify at least one clause within said claim text that has a lower probability than other of said clauses within said claim text of being found in other claims within said corpus.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising displaying said claim text such that said one clause is visually presented differently than the other of said clauses.

8. (Withdrawn) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

providing user-prescribed categories which were specified by a user;

retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database, wherein the patent information is information from multiple patent documents;

analyzing said patent information to generate a category metric corresponding to user-prescribed categories; and

associating said category metric with said patent information and storing said associated metric in a computer-readable dataset.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said patent information includes patent classification information and wherein said analyzing step is performed by defining a plurality of categories and mapping classification information onto said categories.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein said patent information includes claim text information to be analyzed and wherein said analyzing step includes:

defining an eigenspace representing a training population of training claims each training claim having associated training text;

representing at least a portion of said training claims in said eigenspace and associating a predefined category with each training claim in said eigenspace; and

projecting the claim text information to be analyzed into said eigenspace and associating with said projected claim text the predefined category of the training claim to which it is closest within the eigenspace.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

retrieving text of multiple claims from a computer-implemented data store, wherein the text of claims are from a plurality of patent documents;

automatically analyzing said retrieved text to identify the independent claims;

automatically analyzing the text of the independent claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the independent claims, wherein a claim breadth metric that is associated with a claim is indicative of how broad the claim is,

wherein the claim breadth metrics are used to analyze the multiple claims.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes automatically counting the number of words in each of the independent claims and generating a numeric claim breadth metric for each claim therefrom.

13.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes automatically identifying within a claim's text a preamble portion and a body portion, counting the number of words in said preamble and body portions and applying separate weights to said counts to generate said claim breadth metric for a claim.

14.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes automatically parsing said text to identify parts of

speech, using said identified parts of speech to identify clauses within a claim, comparing said clauses with the text of other claims to generate scores indicative of which clauses within said claim text have a lower probability of being found in other claims within said patent documents.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11 further comprising displaying said patent documents in a sorted order based on said claim breadth metrics.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the sorted patent documents are used in a patent infringement study.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the sorted patent documents are used to determine patent documents whose maintenance fees are not to be paid.

18.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes <u>automatically</u> linguistically processing said text to identify at least one clause within said claim text that has a lower probability than other of said clauses within said claim text of being found in other claims within said patent documents.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 18 further comprising displaying said claims' text such that said one clause is visually presented differently than the other of said clauses.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

generating descriptive statistics based upon the generated claim breadth metrics,

wherein the generated descriptive statistics are indicative of quality of claims analyzed.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of 20 wherein generated descriptive

statistics are generated for groupings of claims.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 21 wherein the claim

groupings are formed based upon patent ownership, wherein the generated descriptive

statistics are statistics selected from the group consisting of average, average of the

averages, standard deviation, maximum, minimum, and combinations thereof.

23.   (Withdrawn)   A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method

comprising:

retrieving patent information from a database, wherein the patent information is

from a plurality of patent documents;

analyzing said patent information to generate category metrics; and

associating said category metrics with said patent documents and storing said

associated metrics in a computer-readable dataset,

wherein said patent information includes claim text information to be analyzed

and wherein said analyzing step includes:

defining an eigenspace representing a training population of training claims each

training claim having associated training text;

representing at least a portion of said training claims in said eigenspace and associating a predefined category with each training claim in said eigenspace; and

projecting the claim text information to be analyzed into said eigenspace and associating with said projected claim text the predefined category of the training claim to which it is closest within the eigenspace.

24.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 23 wherein said patent information includes patent classification information and wherein said analyzing step is performed by defining a plurality of categories and mapping classification information onto said categories.

25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 23 wherein said patent information includes using both patent classification information and linguistic analysis results to determine said category metrics to be associated with the patent documents.

27.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 26 wherein the category metrics are indicative of technical areas of the patent documents.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 further comprising:

retrieving text of claims from the database, wherein the text of claims are from the plurality of patent documents;

analyzing the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim,

wherein the claim breadth metrics are used to analyze the claims.

29.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 23 wherein values of the category metrics are predetermined.

30.   (Withdrawn)   The method of claim 23 wherein values of the category metrics are dynamically determined.

31.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis apparatus comprising:

a database of patent documents containing text of claims;

a claim breadth analysis module that automatically analyzes the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim, wherein the claim breadth metrics are provided over an internet network for use in analyzing scope of the claims;

a cluster generator that analyzes patent information to generate category metrics for the patent documents, wherein clusters of patent documents are determined based upon the generated category metrics, wherein the clusters of patent documents are provided over an internet network for use in analyzing the patent documents.

32.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database, said patent information including the claim text of a plurality of claims;

automatically analyzing the claim text of said plurality of claims to generate and associate an individual claim breadth metric with each of said plurality of claims.